

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01229 051854Z

42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 051805Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4800

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1229

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS - TIMING OF NEXT ROUND OF
OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 1216; (B) REYKJAVIK 1212

1. MFA SEC GEN PETUR THORSTEINSSON ASKED FOR MY SUPPORT TO SUGGEST TO FONMIN THAT NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON DURING PERIOD OCT 1 TO 3, INSTEAD OF IN EITHER NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON BEFORE SEP 30, AS SUGGESTED BY FONMIN, PARA ONE REFTEL (A). HE SAID IT WOULD BE MORE "DIGNIFIED" TO HAVE IT TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, AND FONMIN IS GENERALLY NERVOUS WHILE WAITING TO MAKE UNGA SPEECH. HE WOULD BE MORE RELAXED AFTER THE SPEECH (SEP 30). I SAID I COULD NOT GET INVOLVED UNTIL I RECEIVED WORD OF UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S AVAILABILITY.

2. COMMENT: IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD BEFORE SEP 30 OR AT LEAST NOT (RPT NOT) IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN SEP 30 AND OCT 4, WHEN PROGRESSIVE PARTY CHIRMAN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON WILL ALSO BE IN WASHINGTON (SEE REFTEL B). FONMIN AGUSTSSON IS STILL VERY MUCH UNDER DOMINATION OF JOHANNESSON AND IT IS
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MY OPINION HE WOULD HESITATE TO BE FLEXIBLE WITH THE

CHAIRMAN OF HIS PARTY IN TOWN. HOHANNESSON, AS PARTY
CHAIRMAN, WOULD WANT A GREATER MILITARY REDUCTION THAN
420 IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE LEFTIST ELEMENTS OF HIS PARTY.
A REASON FOR HAVING MEETING BEFORE FONMINS UNGA SPEECH
IS THAT WITH TIME ON HIS HANDS IN NEW YORK AGUSTSSON MAY
GIVE "FOOT IN THE MOUTH" PRESS CONFERENCES ON IDF, AS HE
DID LAST YEAR, THAT COULD GIVE HIM AND US TROUBLE BY TIME
THE IDF NEGOTIATIONS RESUME. THIS WOULD CALL FOR THE
NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE PLACE SOONER, RATHER THAN LATER.

3. AS OF TODAY NEITHER AGUSTSSON NOR THORSTEINSSON
AWARE THAT JOHANNESSON GOING TO WASHINGTON. THORSTEIN-
SSONS SUGGESTION, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE CONSTRUED IN AN
ULTERIOR MANNER.
IRVING

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